

COCCIDIOSIS IN SHEEP AND GOATS



information

- ▣ Can be known as bloody scouers
- ▣ Coccidiosis is caused by coccidia- a group of single celled parasites
- ▣ Intercellular parasites
- ▣ Infection is caused by ingestion of the oocyst (egg) from the environment
- ▣ *Eimeria ninakohlyakimovae* and *Eimeria arlongi* are particularly troublesome in goats

Life cycle

- ▣ They live and grow within the cells lining the gastrointestinal tracts of the host
- ▣ The oocyst is passed in the feces of infected hosts
- ▣ Oocysts must undergo a period of development after being passed before becoming able to infect another host

- ▣ After a susceptible goat ingests developed oocyst, "spores" are released and enter the cells lining the intestine
- ▣ The intestinal cells are destroyed and thousands of smaller forms of coccidia are released
- ▣ These smaller forms attack other intestinal cells
- ▣ Eventually sexual stages are reached and new oocysts are passed into the environment
- ▣ The complete cycle usually takes about 2-3 weeks

symptoms

- ▣ Loss of appetite
- ▣ Slight, short-lived diarrhea
- ▣ Severe bloody diarrhea
- ▣ Chance of causing death
- ▣ Severity of symptoms depends on the number of parasites in the infected animal



- ▣ Coccidia can be detected by microscopically testing fecal samples from your herd
- ▣ The presence of coccidia in samples does not guarantee that the animal has coccidiosis
- ▣ Healthy goats have some immunity
- ▣ The most susceptible are the very young and kids and lambs that are being weaned
- ▣ Adults can contract it due to stress or from a heavily infected area



Treatment

- ▣ Sulfa drugs
 - Sulfamethazine
 - sulfadimethoxine (Albon)
 - Sulfaguanidine
 - Tetracycline
 - amprolium (Corid R)
- ▣ not all are for goat use
- ▣ Treatment is usually given for five days
- ▣ These are known as coccidiostats



Prevention

- ❑ Best way is to feed rations that have coccidiostats in it such as decoquinate (Decox) and lasalocid (Bovatec)
- ❑ Treat kids at three weeks of age and then again in three weeks
- ❑ Isolate infected animals from the herd



sources

- ▣ http://goatconnection.com/articles/publish/article_111.shtml